

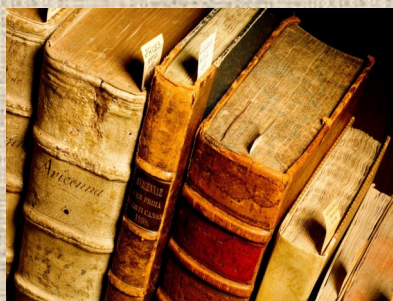
# Notes from the John Martin Rare Book Room August 2012

**REINIER DE GRAAF (1641-1673). *Tractatus anatomico-medicus de succi pancreatici natura & usu*. Leiden: Ex officina Hackiana, 1671**



Graaf, a Dutch anatomist and physiologist, was celebrated for his work on digestion as well as on the anatomy of the genital organs of both sexes. He was an early investigator of the pancreas and collected the pancreatic juice of dogs by means of artificially created pancreatic fistulae. In this work, he comments on the small quantity of juice secreted and its alkaline nature. The work also contains Graaf's letter to Luca Schacht (1634-1689) on the reproductive system. Graaf demonstrated ovulation anatomically, pathologically, and experimentally. He opposed the Aristotelian doctrine of the egg being formed in the uterus as a result of activation of the menstrual blood by the male semen, but held that generation takes place from the ovum pre-existent in the ovary. He gives the first description of ovarian (Graafian) follicles and the corpus luteum. His was an advanced and accurate understanding of the anatomy of the female genitalia.

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